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General

The United Arab Emirates is located on the E side of the Arabian Peninsula. It is bounded on the N by the Persian Gulf, on the E by Oman and the Gulf of Oman, and on the S and W by Saudi Arabia.

The United Arab Emirates has a dispute with Iran concerning the territorial claims of several islands in the Persian Gulf.

The country consists of a flat, barren coastal plain that merges into a vast desert with rolling dunes. Some mountains rise in the E part.

The climate is mostly hot, dry desert being somewhat cooler in the mountains.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Emirian dirham, consisting of 1,000 fils.

Firing Areas

Naval firing practices (surface-to-surface and surface-to-air) and other exercises take place within **Area No. 1** (NE of Abu Dhabi) enclosed by the following positions:

- a. 24°47'N, 54°35'E.
- b. 25°02'N, 54°30'E.
- c. 25°02'N, 54°07'E.

Details of firing exercises within the above area will be broadcast as warnings by Bahrain Radio (A9M) on 500 kHz, normally 3 days in advance. Vessels are advised to avoid the area, or if it is necessary to enter, to proceed with caution.

Government



Flag of United Arab Emirates

Formerly known as the Trucial States, Trucial Coast, and Trucial Oman, the United Arab Emirates includes Fujairah, Ras al Khaymah, Umm al Qaywayn, Khawr Ajman, Sharjah, Dubayy, and Abu Zaby (Abu Dhabi). The UAE is a federation of these seven emirates, each with its own ruler. It is headed by a Supreme Council of Rulers, which is composed of the seven rulers.

The President and Vice President, who serve 5-year terms, are elected from the Supreme Council. The Council of Mini-

sters, appointed by the Supreme Council, is led by the Prime Minister.

The legislative body is the Majlis al-Ittihad al-Watani (Federal National Council), consisting of 40 members appointed by the rulers of the constituent states to serve 2-year terms, which may propose amendments to legislation and the federal budget drafted by the Council of Ministers, but which has no executive power.

The legal system consists of a federal court introduced in 1971. All emirates except Dubayy and Ras al Khaymah have joined this federal system. All emirates have secular and Islamic law for civil and high courts.

The capital is Abu Zaby (Abu Dhabi).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
U.A.E. National Days	December 2-3

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Eid Al-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), Ashoora, Ascension of the Prophet, and the Prophet's Birthday.

In some regions, the holiday of Ruler's Accession Day (August 6) is observed.

Industries

The main industries include crude oil and natural gas production. Other industries include construction materials, petrochemicals, fishing, and boat building.

Agriculture includes dates, vegetables, fruits, poultry, and livestock.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. Farsi and English are widely used in the major cities. Hindi and Urdu are also used.

Mined Areas

Vessels are advised that mined areas exist in the N part of the Persian Gulf. Further information should be obtained from the local authorities. Mine sightings should be reported to the naval authorities by INMARSAT (150 5612) or to Coalition naval vessels on VHF channel 13 or 16. Details of areas reported to be dangerous due to mines are also promulgated by Notice to Mariners issued by the Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) and by MARAD advisories.

Regulations

Masters are warned that public consumption of alcoholic drinks is strictly prohibited in the United Arab Emirates and its territorial waters. Crew members must not be allowed to offer alcohol to any Moslem for any reason whatsoever.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is DELTA (-4). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Al-Sudan Street, Abu Dhabi. The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—
P.O. Box 4009
Abu Dhabi
2. Diplomatic pouch—
American Embassy Abu Dhabi
Department of State
Washington DC 20521-6010

U. S. Embassy United Arab Emirates Home Page

<http://www.usembabu.gov.ae>